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**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed amendments and remarks is requested. Claims 1-16 and 24-25 have been cancelled. Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 17, 21, and 23 remain in the application.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for telephonic interview held on June 2, 2005.

**ARGUMENT**

According to the final Office action, claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-17, 21, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dan et al., US pat. No. 6,148,290 (hereinafter Dan).

Claims 1-16 and 24-25 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot.

As to independent claim 17, it has been amended to more particularly recite the present invention. Claim 17 now requires that a purchase/subscribe agent is included and coupled to the archive agent and the parties to receive registrations from the participants in order for the participants to be notified of at least one of changes to the shared business process, change of authority, and security compromises, and to distribute the signed and verified electronic contract to the registered participants according to a publish and subscribe model. Such a purchase/subscribe agent is not taught or suggested by Dan. Dan teaches or suggests nothing about a publish and subscribe model for electronic contract distribution. Dan teaches or suggests nothing about notifying participants about changes to the shared business process, change of authority, or security compromises. Hence, Dan does not teach or suggest the present claim, and it is allowable as presented. Additionally, dependent claims 21 and 23 are also allowable.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Claims 17, 21 and 23 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-8074. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Steven P. Skabrat/  
Registration No. 36,279  
Senior Attorney  
Intel Corporation  
(503) 264-8074

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor &  
Zafman, LLP  
12400 Wilshire Blvd.  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

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